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« Die Kaspi-Volga-Ostsee-Route in der Handelskontrollpolitik Karls XI. Die schwedischen Persien-Missionen von Ludvig Fabritius 1679-1700 ». *Forschungen zur Osteuropaischen Geschichte*, 54, (1998), pp. 127-204.

Rudi Matthee

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- 1 This impressively researched article breaks new ground by offering an in-depth study of the role played by the Volga route – connecting the Baltic Sea to Iran – in the commercial policy of Charles XI of Sweden (r. 1672-97). On the basis of a large number of archival sources, the author examines the mercantilist attempt by Sweden to establish a flourishing trade with the Safavid realm, the important role played by Armenian merchants in this endeavor, and shows how Narva became a flourishing entrepôt in the trade between Iran and northern Europe from the moment, in 1687, that they obtained special rights in Sweden and promised to divert their trade from Archangelsk to Narva. The Russians, pressured by their own merchants, soon ceased to cooperate with the Swedish project, however, and Narva was definitively doomed with the outbreak of the Great Northern War in 1701. A good part of the article is taken up by a detailed discussion of the diplomatic exchange between Sweden and Iran, with a special focus on the three diplomatic and commercial missions undertaken to the Safavid court on behalf of the Swedish King by Ludvig Fabritius, an envoy of Dutch background.

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**Thèmes :** 4.2.1. Safavides et Qâjârs

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